WRITTEN ANSWERS To QUESTIONS

*167. [Transferred to the 28th March, 1990]. '

Supply of drinking water in the villages

*168. SHR1 SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to stae:

(a) what is the number of villages in the country without drinking water facilities as on date; and

(b) what steps have been taken so far to provide drinking water to such villages?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) There are 12764 problem villages in the country without safe drinking water facilities as per reports received so far from the States/UTs.

(b) Out of 12764 problem villages, 6406 problem villages are likely to be covered with safe drinking water facilities by 31-3-1990 and the balance 6358 problem villages will spill over to Eighth Plan. These spill over villages are likely to be covered in the first two years of the Eighth Five Year Plan under a time-bound action programme.

Disposal of old industrial disputes

*169. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about four lakh cases are pending before various industrial tribunals and labour courts in the country including the industrial-cum-labour courts functioning under the Ministry of Labour;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for more than five years in different courts, State-wise and the reasons for delay in their disposal; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken lor the early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a), According to information available, as on the 30th June, 1989, the number of industrial disputes and applications pending before the Indusrial Tribunals and Labour Courts of the Central Government, the State Governments and the Administrations of the Union Territories was 3. 29 lakhs.

(b) State-wise data of cases pending for more than five years in Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts are not readily available. However, States had been requested earlier to provide information on cases which were pending for three years or more. A statement showing the information to the extent available is attached. The statement also shows the pendency of cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts. [See Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 46].

The reasons identified generally for delay in disposal of these cases are, inter-alia, heavy work load, occasional delay in filling vacancies of Presiding Officers, procedural impediments such as absence of Advocates, adjournments for furnishing information, stay orders of superior courts, or attempt to make an out of court settlement, etc.

(c) The steps in hand for expediting adjudication of industrial disputes are inter alia the following: —

(i) Improving and strengthening of the Conciliation Machinery so that a larger number of cases are settled at the conciliation stage;

(ii) Expeditious filling up of vacancies in the posts of Presiding Officers of the Labour Courts and the Industrial Tribunals;